

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

1. (currently amended): A system for facilitating transactions among travel service suppliers and travel service buyers, the system comprising:

a communication network in communication with a plurality of centralized hub sites, and ~~wherein the communication network is~~ configured to provide access to a data distribution system, a travel broker database, and a travel history database through the hub sites, wherein the data distribution system is connected to a plurality of travel vendor databases[[:]],

[[a]] wherein the travel broker database, ~~connected to the communication network, wherein the travel broker database~~ is configured to store information about travel service inventory, ~~wherein the travel broker database is configured~~ for access by the travel service suppliers who post and edit travel service inventory and place reverse auction bids on posted travel service inventory, and ~~wherein the travel broker database is configured~~ for access by the travel service buyers to browse and perform queries on the travel service inventory and to accept reverse auction bids for travel service inventory from travel service suppliers[[:]], and

[[a]] wherein the travel history database, ~~connected to the communication network, wherein the travel history database~~ is configured to store current information

about a traveler's future travel plans[[,]] and ~~wherein the travel history database is~~
~~configured~~ to be accessed by travel service buyers who use information about a traveler's
future travel plans to place orders to travel service suppliers

wherein at least one of the travel broker database and the travel history
database stores information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats; and

a point of service terminal connected to the communication network;
~~wherein the point of service terminal is~~ and configured to access the travel broker database
and the travel history database, ~~wherein at least one of the travel broker database and the~~
~~travel history database stores information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats;~~
and wherein the travel service buyers, travel service sellers, and the point of service
terminal access the travel broker database, travel history database, and computer
reservation systems through the communication network.

2. (previously presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the
plurality of data sets are stored as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary
via a fixed memory offset.

3. (previously presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein the
plurality of data sets are annotated for storage onto a financial transaction instrument with
at least one of: a header and a trailer.

4. (currently amended): A method for facilitating transactions among travel service suppliers and travel service buyers, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a communication network in communication with a plurality of centralized hub sites, wherein the communication network is configured to provide access to a data distribution system, a travel broker database, a travel history database and a point of service terminal through the plurality of hub sites, wherein the data distribution system is connected to a plurality of travel vendor databases;

configuring the travel broker database to be accessible by the travel service suppliers and the travel service buyers;

~~configuring the travel broker database~~ and to store information about travel service inventory, wherein the travel service suppliers post and edit information about travel service inventory, and place reverse auction bids on travel service inventory, and wherein travel service buyers browse, perform queries, and accept bids in a reverse auction on the travel service inventory based on the posted travel service inventory information;

configuring the travel history database to store current information about a traveler's future travel plans;

~~configuring the travel history database~~ and to be accessed by travel service buyers who use information about a traveler's future travel plans to place orders to travel service suppliers; and

providing the point of service terminal with access to the broker database and the travel history database through the communication network; and

storing information into the travel broker database and travel history database as a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats.

5. (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of:

storing the plurality of data sets as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed memory offset.

6. (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

annotating the plurality of data sets; and

storing the annotated plurality of data sets onto a financial transaction instrument.

7. (currently amended): An integrated travel industry system comprising:

a communication network;

a plurality of centralized hub sites in communication with the communication network, ~~wherein each of the plurality of centralized hub sites comprises~~ including a network connection, a transport mechanism and a redundant data center, wherein the redundant data center is configured to store a database for each of the plurality of data distribution systems; ~~and wherein~~

a data distribution system ~~[[is]]~~ connected to the plurality of centralized hub sites;

a remote site connected to the communication network including, ~~wherein~~ ~~the remote site comprises~~ a point of service terminal connected to at least one of the plurality of centralized hub sites of the communication network, such that the point of service terminal is configured to access each of the plurality of data distribution systems;

a travel broker database, connected to the communication network, ~~wherein~~ ~~the travel broker database is~~ and configured to store information about travel service inventory, ~~wherein the travel broker database is configured~~ for access by travel service suppliers who post and edit travel service inventory and place reverse auction bids on posted travel service inventory, and ~~wherein the travel broker database is configured~~ for access by travel service buyers to browse and perform queries on the travel service inventory and to accept reverse auction bids for travel service inventory from travel service suppliers; and

a travel history database, connected to the communication network, ~~wherein~~ ~~the travel history database is~~ and configured to store current information about a traveler's future travel plans, and ~~wherein the travel history database is configured~~ to be accessed by travel service buyers who use information about a traveler's future travel plans to place orders to travel service suppliers,

wherein at least one of the travel broker database and the travel history database stores information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats,

wherein the point of service terminal comprises a user interface configured to allow simultaneous access to the plurality of data distribution systems and a customer service application tier having at least one of: a low fare search module, a super passenger name record database, a customer database, a trip planning module, a customer relationship management module, and a workflow module, and

wherein at least one of: the super passenger name record database and customer database stores information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats, and the plurality of data sets are stored as ungrouped data elements formatted as a block of binary via a fixed memory offset, [[and]]

wherein the point of service terminal is configured to access the travel broker database and the travel history database, ~~wherein at least one of the travel broker database and the travel history database stores information in a plurality of data sets in a plurality of formats,~~ and

wherein the travel service buyers, travel service sellers, and the point of service terminal access the travel broker database, travel history database, and computer reservation systems through the centralized communication network.

8. (canceled).

9. (previously presented): The system according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of data sets are annotated for storage onto a financial transaction instrument.